

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objected to the drawings for not illustrating the wedge-shaped cross section.

However, the drawings do illustrate the wedge-shaped cross section. See original Figures 3, 7, and 8. Also see specification page 7, lines 6-10: "The arms 3 are preferably designed with a wedge-shaped cross section where the wedge-shape tapers contrary to the direction of feed, which is advantageous at a reciprocating movement, to in one direction slide under the material without bringing it along and in the other direction push a certain amount of material before."

Each arm is shown with a wedge peak (the centerline) and two edges. These illustrate an arm having a wedge-shaped cross section, where the wedge-shape tapers contrary to the direction of feed (from the centerline peak to the trailing edge of the arm). Although these drawing figures are plan views, they nonetheless show that the arms (3) are designed with a wedge-shaped cross section, where the wedge-shape tapers contrary to the direction of feed. Therefore, no amendments are required. Withdrawal of the objection is solicited.

The Official Action objected to the specification, stating that it was unclear how the frame was being rotated or

reciprocated. Arrows were previously added to Figures 3 and 5 to illustrate the rotating movement.

One should first review that the prior art rotated the hub, e.g., as shown in Figures 1A-1C, with a driven device. Rotating the hub in turn rotates the prior art arms fixed thereto.

In the present invention (page 9, lines 4-7) further tendencies of packing are prevented by a frame arranged to the arms, at the same time as the frame stiffens the arms and the parts of the device can be made more slender than without the frame. The stiffening also prevents lifting of the arms upwards from the bottom of the container.

The Official Action refers to Figures 8A and 8B. Present Figures 8A and 8B correspond to original Figure 9, and show embodiments in cross section where the frame is arranged to the container. These figures show that the frame may be fixed to the arms or to the wall of the container. The inventive output device rotates, whether or not the arms are connected to the frame, i.e., the device rotates when the frame is connected to the wall of the container, even though the frame does not rotate, because when the frame is connected to the wall of the container, the arms are not connected to the frame.

Consider Figures 8A and 8B, with frame 2 connected to the arms 3, the arms extending completely from the inner wall of the container towards the container center and the hub

(specification page 7, lines 26-28, the hub 1 shown in the other figures). The drive mechanism, e.g., the hydraulic pistons 4 shown in Figure 4, drives the hub in a reciprocating manner, the hub is attached to the arms, and the arms are attached to the frame. Therefore the frame is reciprocated by the drive mechanism. A rotary drive mechanism would similarly rotate the frame, e.g., Figure 6.

See that claim 14 recites wherein a frame (2) is arranged adjacent to the outer ends of the arms (3). Frame 15 recites wherein the frame (2) is fixed to the arms (3). In this situation the frame would rotate. See also claim 16 wherein the frame (2) is fixed to the container (6). Figures 8A and 8B related to these. For claim 17, a driving device capable of driving the arms with a rotating movement, see Figure 6. For claim 18, a driving device capable of driving the arms with a reciprocating movement, see Figure 4.

Withdrawal of the specification objection is therefore solicited.

Claim 11 is amended consistent with specification page 7, lines 26-28 to recite the discharge opening 5 extending from the inner wall of the container radially to the hub 1. See Figures 3-6 and 7A-7C. No new matter is entered by way of this amendment.

Claims 11-14, 17, and 20-25 were rejected as anticipated by REBUCCI 4,150,701. The remaining claims were rejected as obvious over REBUCCI.

REBUCCI does not disclose that the bottom of the container has at least one gap-shaped discharge opening (5) extending from the inner wall of the container radially to the hub (1).

REBUCCI discloses (Figures 1, 3) a base assembly 36 with a base 38 which is generally X-shaped. A circular platform 40 is secured to the upper surface of base 38. Platform 40 is provided with a central hole from which depends a discharge conduit 42. Conduit 42 is coaxial with or otherwise arranged to deliver granular material to a feeder conduit 43 at the upper end of a pulverizer (not shown) of a coal-fed power plant.

REBUCCI further discloses that "[t]he output from reducer 76 extends through a hole in floor 74 and is connected to the hub 80 from which extends a pair of blades 82, 84. See FIG. 3. ... Each of the blades at its inner end is approximately tangent to the discharge conduit 42."

Finally, REBUCCI discloses that "[w]hen feeding coal, conduit 42 discharges the coal to an air swept pulverizing mill using preheated air which usually has a temperature of about 250.degree. F. The pulverized coal is blown from the mill directly into the furnace."

The discharge of REBUCCI is clearly different from the claimed invention. This feature of the invention is also non-obvious. With the recited discharge opening, the material to be fed out of the container is discharged in a more efficient way than with the prior art. Accordingly, the claims are believed both novel and non-obvious.

Having amended the recitations of the invention so as to recite the invention both novel and non-obvious, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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